

## House Resolution 18 - Introduced

### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY WESSEL-KROESCHELL, OLDSON, STECKMAN, RUFF,  
ANDERSON, HEDDENS, WOLFE, FINKENAUER, H. MILLER,  
THEDE, MASCHER, LENSING, STUTSMAN, WINCKLER,  
RUNNING-MARQUARDT, BENNETT, GASKILL, GAINES,  
BROWN-POWERS, BERRY, KEARNS, T. TAYLOR, OURTH,  
SMITH, BEARINGER, COHOON, LYKAM, and KELLEY

1 A Resolution expressing the House of Representatives'  
2 commitment to women's health and well-being.

3 WHEREAS, according to the Guttmacher Institute,  
4 182,690 Iowa women were in need of publicly supported  
5 family planning services in 2012; and

6 WHEREAS, according to a study in 2009 by the  
7 University of Iowa Public Policy Center entitled "The  
8 Cost of Unintended Pregnancy in Iowa", every dollar  
9 invested in family planning services saved \$15.12 in  
10 public expenditures over a five-year time period; and

11 WHEREAS, improving the health and well-being of  
12 women is a goal of the Healthiest State Initiative; and

13 WHEREAS, access to comprehensive reproductive health  
14 care is critical to improving the health and well-being  
15 of women; and

16 WHEREAS, significant racial and ethnic disparities  
17 exist in women's health, particularly in maternal  
18 mortality, infant mortality, and incidence of premature  
19 or low birth weight births; and

20 WHEREAS, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender  
21 (LGBT) women have unique health care needs and confront  
22 a unique set of disparities in the current health care  
23 system; and

24 WHEREAS, approximately half of pregnancies are  
25 unintended, and preventing unintended pregnancies  
26 benefits child health, maternal health, and the health  
27 and well-being of families and society as a whole; and

28 WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease  
1 Control and Prevention (CDC) included family planning  
2 in their published list of "Ten Great Public Health  
3 Achievements in the 20th Century"; and

4 WHEREAS, many women lack access to comprehensive,  
5 affordable insurance coverage, even though all women  
6 should have such coverage for all pregnancy-related  
7 care, including prenatal care, miscarriage management,  
8 family planning services, abortion, labor and delivery  
9 services, and postnatal care; and

10 WHEREAS, according to the Guttmacher Institute,  
11 more abortion restrictions were enacted in the period  
12 from 2011-2013 than in the entire previous decade; NOW  
13 THEREFORE,

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That  
15 the House of Representatives supports efforts to do all  
16 of the following:

17 1. Make improving women's health a priority during  
18 the 86th General Assembly.

19 2. Ensure that all women have access to the best  
20 available, scientifically based health care.

21 3. Ensure that women have access to safe  
22 childbearing, with resources available to reduce  
23 maternal and infant morbidity and mortality.

24 4. Ensure that women have the autonomy to decide  
25 whether to have children, the number and spacing

26 of their children, and to have medically accurate  
27 information, education, and access to health services  
28 to make these decisions.

29     5. Ensure that women have access to affordable  
30 insurance coverage for all of their pregnancy-related  
1 health care needs, including contraception and  
2 abortion, as well as for their general health care  
3 needs including coverage through Medicare, the Iowa  
4 Wellness Plan, and the Iowa Marketplace Choice Plan.

5     6. Ensure that women are afforded autonomous  
6 decision making, informed consent, privacy, and  
7 confidentiality regarding their health care.

8     7. Work to end health disparities for women,  
9 including with regard to ethnicity, race, gender, and  
10 sexual orientation.